

UFAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome

Welcome to the spring 2024 UFAS Update newsletter. The new year brings with it a revised scheme Standard, which has been jointly developed with FEMAS and TASCC to improve understanding across the three assurance schemes. Following an industry consultation, the new Standard is set to be introduced later this year with AIC's Services team travelling across the UK and Ireland to run a series of seminars to help scheme Participants prepare and answer any questions. As ever, it is vital that UFAS Participants ensure that feed and food safety is the top priority. Over the coming weeks, supporting documents such as Guidance Notes and Audit checklists will be published to assist Participants in preparing for the new Standard.



Simon Williams

Technical Manager for AIC Services

UFAS 2024 Standard

Following a detailed review process lasting three years, the final draft of the new UFAS 2024 Standard is now available on AIC's website. The Standard, along with TASCC and FEMAS are currently being reviewed by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), which is not expected to require any amendments, and this will be confirmed as soon as possible.

All UFAS audits taking place after 1 June 2024 will be against the new Standard and Participants are encouraged to review their procedures and systems to ensure they continue to comply with the scheme requirements. In the coming weeks, a document summarising the key changes will be published, and some of the highlights are included in this edition of UFAS Update.

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AIC Seminars

As the process of updating the FEMAS, TASC, and UFAS standards reaches its conclusion, AIC Services is pleased to announce that there will be a series of seminars held in the second quarter of 2024 to update scheme Participants on the changes.

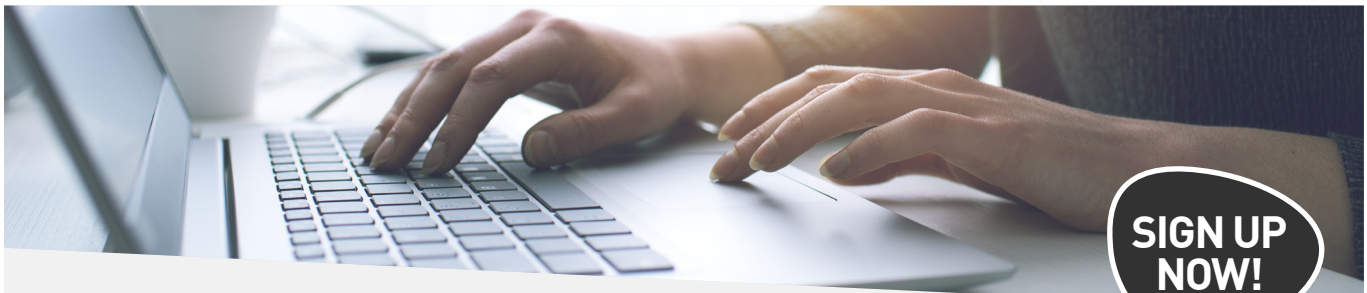
Locations and dates for these seminars are as follows:

- Northern Ireland – 24 April 2024
- Republic of Ireland – 25 April 2024
- Bristol – 15 May 2024
- Peterborough – 23 May 2024
- Chester – 4 June 2024
- Wetherby – 5 June 2024
- Perth – 11 June 2024



For full details of each seminar and to book your place, go to <https://www.agindustries.org.uk/events-calendar.html>. As with previous seminars, these will be a valuable opportunity for Participants to hear the latest updates on the schemes as well as meeting the AIC team and representatives from Kiwa Agrifood, the UFAS certification body.

<p>Jan-Feb</p> <p>UKAS assessment of Standards</p>	<p>Feb</p> <p>Final Standard published with changes document</p>	<p>March-May</p> <p>Sector notes revised and published, updated checklists published</p>	<p>March-May</p> <p>Auditor training</p>	<p>April-June</p> <p>Participant seminars</p>	<p>01 June</p> <p>Audits to UFAS 2024 begin</p>
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SIGN UP NOW!

Online AIC HACCP course

This accredited Level 2 e-learning course on the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control point, has been specifically developed for the feed and agri-food industry with relevant practical examples from all sectors.

Designed in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, it is widely used by Members and Participants as part of their staff development and induction and refresher training.

The course is self-guided, takes two to three hours to complete, and a qualification certificate is issued on successful completion of a multiple-choice test.

To find out more and register directly use the QR code or visit:

<https://www.agindustries.org.uk/resource/haccp-e-learning-course-for-agri-food-from-aic.html>



Kiwa UFAS training

Since 2019 Kiwa has offered a FEMAS training course to Participants, applicants, and other interested parties which has been well received by Participants. As the new UFAS Standard is launched Kiwa has started to develop a similar course aimed at UFAS Participants.

The course will typically be provided online across two mornings, but Participants can also request a dedicated course for their employees online. It is also possible to request in-person courses which can be delivered over one day. Look out for more details once the course is launched.



SCAN ME

Salmonella Sampling and Testing

For the last two years, AIC has been in discussions with Defra, APHA, FSA, and industry stakeholders to produce an updated Defra Salmonella Code for animal feed. In preparation for this to be published, the requirements for salmonella sampling and testing have been updated with two significant changes that participants will need to be aware of and potentially update their systems.

- 1 A new requirement that any laboratory used for salmonella analysis must be ISO17025 accredited AND the method used must be listed in the Accreditation Schedule.
- 2 There must be a system to respond to salmonella isolations, making reference to the Defra Code, in particular with regard to when the authorities need to be informed.



Kiwa videos – what to expect at an audit and using the portal

Kiwa has produced videos to assist Participants with understanding what to expect at an audit and how to log into the assurance portal to upload audit related documents. Log in to AIC's website to find these videos on the trade assurance page or by following the links below:

AIC Portal Guide - <https://vimeo.com/856809821>

What to expect at your audit - <https://vimeo.com/856773713>



New Scheme terminology

UFAS 2024 includes some updated terminology, with the aim of improving clarity for Participants when reading and complying with the Standard. In addition to "Requirements" which will form the basis of the checklist and the audit process there is now "Interpretation", "Guidance" and "Further Information".

Full descriptions of these terms are included in the Scheme Rules at the front of the Standard, but in summary:

- Interpretation is something a Participant should consider to ensure that feed safety is maintained, and legislation complied with.
- Guidance is advice that may be useful in achieving the required outcome.
- Further information is any external source of information (web links etc).



**Interpretation
Guidance
Further Information**

Risks of disease in animal feed farm storage units highlighted in fresh Defra advice

Fresh guidance to cattle farmers on helping reduce the risks of disease in animal feed storage units has been published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Following a survey in late 2023, the latest advice highlights the importance of cleaning animal feed storage areas, containers, and equipment regularly and thoroughly to maintain healthy and productive animals, avoid unnecessary contamination, and reduce the risk of disease on farms.

Regular cleaning of feed storage facilities – silos, floors, bays, bins – in advance of new feed deliveries is vital. Remnants of old feed can become trapped in joints, grooves, and crevices with the potential to remain in place for many years, causing feed spoilage and illness from mould and contaminants, and reducing feed quality.

Where feed storage on farms pre-dates August 1996, farmers are advised to decommission and replace feed silos, as this will reduce the potential risk of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Dry or vacuum methods of cleaning are preferred, followed by the use of disinfectant. A professional cleaning service may be helpful where deep cleaning is challenging.

For further guidance on the potential risk of disease, including BSE, from feed storage on farm, visit the GOV.UK website.



AIC website – set up personal preferences on login

Did you know that you can update your personal preferences and opt-in options via your profile on AIC's website?

When logging in by clicking the icon in the top right corner, click on "Edit profile" and "Contact Preferences" to select the topics which are of interest to you.

You can also choose how you wish to be contacted and tailor your opt-in preferences for Member briefings.



Agricultural Industries Confederation Ltd
First Floor, Unit 4 The Forum,
Minerva Business Park,
Lynch Wood, Peterborough, PE2 6FT.

Tel: 01733 385230
Email: enquiries@agindustries.org.uk



Design & Development by RDP

